(b) if so, the effective steps taken by Government to improve ther financial health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM;: (a) Eight States had revenue deficit to revenue receipt ratio exceeding 25% in the FT 2003-04 (RE). For Assam this ratio stood at 16.4% for this year.

(b) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments towards fiscal consolidation, Government of India has created "States' Fiscal Reforms Facility (2000-01 to 2004-05)", in accordance with the recommendation of the Eleventh Finance Commission. The Scheme incentives States to undertake fiscal reforms programme in the medium term, *inter alia,* aiming at reducing their revenue deficit over the reform period, by way of improving tax and non-tax receipts and reprioritizing expenditure.

Disinvestment in ITDC hotels

1250. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are open to disinvestment in ITDC hotels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to sell loss making hotels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The Government has set up a Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) to advise the Government on strategies, measures and schemes for strengthening, modernizing, reviving and restructuring of public sector enterprises including disinvestment/closure/sale in respect of the chronically sick/loss making companies, which cannot be revived. Further action for disinvestment or otherwise of the hotel properties of India Tourism Development Corporation Limited (ITDC) would depend on the recommendations of the BRPSE and the Government's decision thereon.